



The Cultural Construction of Monstrous Children

Essays on Anomalous Children From 1595 to the Present Day

Edited by Simon Bacon and Leo Ruickbie

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An innovative and interdisciplinary collection of essays examining the Western construct and its failure of the anomalous child

Bacon and Ruickbie have assembled a diverse and fascinating bestiary of essays engaging the fear of and for children. With insight and nuance the contributors investigate teenage werewolves (real ones?), child zombies, ancient adolescent vampires, phantasmal progenies, evil offspring, and terrifying tykes, among other anomalous children from the Renaissance through the Slenderman era. Each essays offers an insight into the terrors of youth, but the whole is greater than the sum of the parts, revealing a tapestry of anxiety and dread regarding childhood and adolescence that transcends cultures and historic periods. Reader beware – you will never want to babysit again after this book. — Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr., Ph.D., Professor, Loyola Marymount University, Bram Stoker Award-nominated editor and author of Post-9/11 Horror in American Cinema

This innovative and interdisciplinary collection of essays considers examples of monstrous children since the 16th century to the present, spanning real-life and popular culture, to exhibit the manifestation of the Western cultural anxiety around the problematic, anomalous child as naughty, dangerous, or just plain evil.

About the Editors

Simon Bacon is an independent scholar based in Poznan, Poland. He has written extensively on vampires, monsters and the construction of difference in contemporary culture.

Leo Ruickbie is a writer, editor and social scientist specialising in controversial areas of human belief and experience. He is the author of several books on witchcraft, magic and the supernatural.

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